

The District of Columbia:

Taxation Without Representation or a Constitutional Mandate?

What Does the D.C. System of Governance Mean to Me and My Community?

A Competition for High School Students who are District of Columbia residents

District residents attending high school are invited to submit essays and projects to a competition on the topic – **The District of Columbia: Taxation Without Representation or a Constitutional Mandate? What does the D.C. System of Governance Mean to Me and My Community?** The competition is part of the Spring Student Forum 2005 on Governance in the District of Columbia, co-sponsored by Washington, D.C. Student Voices and the DC Youth Advisory Council. The deadline for submitting entries is 5:30PM, Monday, May 2, 2005. No late entries will be accepted.



The John A. Wilson Building

"The District Building"

What Is Taxation Without Representation?

District of Columbia citizens pay the same federal taxes that all US citizens pay but they have no representation of any kind in the US Senate and only a nonvoting delegate to the US House of Representatives. That means they have no voting representation on the national issues considered by Congress. Because of this, all legislation enacted by the Council of the District of Columbia and signed by the mayor, including how DC decides to spend its money and ballot initiatives voted on by D.C. citizens in regular and special elections, does not become official until the US Congress passes it. (adapted from www.dcvote.org)

What is the Impact?

The U.S. Congress has the power to reject or change decisions made by DC citizens and elected officials. It has resulted in the US House of Representatives passing legislation in 2004 to end the District's gun control laws; installing the public charter school movement and school vouchers in the DC public education system; saying how DC Medicaid dollars can be spent; not allowing any District funds (local or federal) to be used to lobby for DC voting rights; stopping the District from counting the results of a ballot initiative on medical marijuana, and more.

What is your response?

Your entry must demonstrate that you: 1) understand the relationship between D.C. and Congress; 2) researched both factual and historical information about a specific instance in which the US Congress has exercised its authority over local issues in the District of Columbia; and 3) identified and described the impact it has had on your life, the lives of your family, friends, or others in the District, or the District as a viable city for business and daily living (in a positive or negative way).

PRIZES TO BE AWARDED

First Place	\$1000
Second Place	\$750
Third Place	\$250

***Prizes Sponsored by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania*

WHO CAN ENTER?

There are three eligibility requirements:

1. You must be a resident of the District of Columbia.
2. You must be attending high school.
3. You must participate in the Spring Student Forum on May 16, 2005.

SPRING STUDENT FORUM 2005

on
Governance in the District of Columbia

Co-sponsored by
Washington D.C. Student Voices
and the
D.C. Youth Advisory Council

TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR A CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE?

ELIGIBILITY

1. You must be a resident of the District of Columbia
2. You must be attending high school.
3. You must attend and participate in the forum in order to be eligible for the prize.
4. You may submit an essay or an exhibit.

***An individual or a group may submit a single entry. If a group entry wins a prize the award amount will stay the same but will be split equally among all members of the group.*

JUDGING

Entries will be screened by forum staff and semi-finalists will be reviewed by a team of four to six judges using the following criteria. A sample judging sheet is attached.

Paper

- Research Quality (25%)
- Relates Issue to Theme & Personal Experience (25%)
- Clarity of Presentation (15%)
- Action Plan (20%)
- Action (10%)
- Rules Compliance (5%)

Exhibit

- Research Quality (25%)
- Relates Issue to Theme & Personal Experience (25%)
- Clarity of Presentation (15%)
- Action Plan (20%)
- Action (10%)
- Rules Compliance (5%)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

The entries must be received by 5:30pm on Monday, May 2, 2005 at the following address:

Washington, DC Student Voices
The George Washington University
School of Media and Public Affairs
805 21st Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20052

No late entries will be accepted!

GUIDELINES

Paper

1) Components:

- Cover Sheet (attached)

Name, address, phone, fax, email – printed clearly, typed or printed from computer has release for publication of students name, work and photo – signed by parents (or student if 18 or over) that it is his/her original work).

- Essay
- 1 page action plan
- 1 page action documentation (if applicable)
- Bibliography

2) Style and Format:

Length: No more than 1500 words (approx. 5 pgs)

Line Spacing: Double Spaced

Type Size: Times New Roman, 12 point

Margins: 1" on all sides

Exhibit

1) Components:

- Cover sheet
- Display Board
- Short Essay (one to two pages)
- Bibliography (all sources used, including names of people interviewed)
- Attachments (Optional)

2) Style and Format:

a) Short Exhibit Essay

Length: No more than 500 words (1-2 pgs)

Line Spacing: Double Spaced

Type Size: Times New Roman, 12 point

Margins: 1" on all sides

b) Display Board

Size : 36" X 48" Tri fold board

Optional Attachments:

1. Video Tapes length limited to 5 minutes
2. Brochures or leaflets

No entries on floppy disks or CD's will be accepted.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT ME AND MY COMMUNITY?

GETTING STARTED Useful Resources

Official D.C. Government Information

Mayor's Citywide Call Center
tel: 202-727-1000
Official D.C. website: <http://www.dc.gov>

Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel: 202-724-8000
<http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/>

DC Board of Elections and Ethics
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 250 North
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: (202) 727-2525, <http://www.dcboee.org/>

DC Board of Education
825 North Capitol Street, NE, 7th floor
Washington, DC 20002
Tel: 202-442-4289
<http://www.k12.dc.us/dcps/boe/boehome.html>

Other Organizations and Websites

D.C. Main Library (MLK, Jr. Memorial Library)
901 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001
Tel: 202-727-0321, <http://dclibrary.org>
Washingtoniana Room: 202-727-1213

DC Vote, works on securing full voting representation
in Congress for DC
Tel: 202.462.6000, Fax 202.462.7001, www.dcvote.org

Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave, SE, Washington, DC 20540
Tel: 202-707-5000, www.loc.gov

Our Nation's Capital - works on changing Congressional
fiscal control of DC
PO Box 11736, Washington, D.C. 20008
Email: info@ournationscapitol.org
website: www.ournationscapital.org

Student Voices: <http://student-voices.org/dc>

Sample Ideas for Topics and Projects (be creative)

Sample Topics

Healthcare
Use of Medicaid funds
Impact on HIV-AIDS
Illegal drugs
Safety
Teen pregnancy

Voting Rights
Terrorism
Crime
Taxes
DC Tax Base

Education
Public Charter Schools
School Vouchers
Policital participation in DC
Who runs for office

Sample Projects

An educational campaign about your issue aimed at: your peers, younger students, the larger community
Interviews with people on their ideas about your issue
A public service announcement for radio or tv
An opinion piece written for publication in a newspaper or for radio
Volunteering for an organization that works on your issue
Creating an advocacy group to work on your issue
Writing legislation
A visual presentation on your research – photographs, pictures, text

ENTRIES DUE: May 2, 2005 5:30PM

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED

The Spring Student Forum 2005 on Governance in the District of Columbia At the George Washington University

Monday, May 16, 2005

Cosponsored by Washington, D.C. Student Voices and the DC Youth Advisory Council

Morning Sessions

*Marvin Center
800 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC*

8:00 – 8:45AM

Registration and light refreshments
Grand Ballroom

8:45 – 9:30AM

Opening Session: The Issues and Their History
Grand Ballroom

9:30 – 11:45AM

Facilitated small group discussions
Third Floor Meeting Rooms

11:45 – 12:30

Luncheon Speakers and Competition Awards Ceremony
Grand Ballroom

Afternoon Session

*Jack Morton Auditorium
805 21st Street, NW, First Floor*

12:30 – 2PM

Student-Leader Panel
Audience must be seated by 12:45 for taping

The Student Spring Forum 2005 on Governance in the District of Columbia is an educational forum whose goal is to foster discussion and learning among District youth about how the current governance structure functions for the people who live, work, and visit the nation's capitol. The competition on Taxation Without Representation in DC is intended as a vehicle for students attending the forum to study the issues in advance to inform the discussions. Some students will find that they like the way DC is governed, that there are advantages to having a larger body watching out for the city's citizens. Others may develop an opposite viewpoint.

For more information please contact

Washington, D.C. Student Voices

Tel: 202-994-7753

Email: bfrank@gwu.edu

<http://www.student-voices.org/dc>

DC Youth Advisory Council

Tel: 202-727-7995

Email: emilio.dorcely@dc.gov

<http://www.cncs.dc.gov/cncs/>

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR A CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE?
WHAT DOES THE D.C. SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE MEAN TO ME AND MY COMMUNITY?

OFFICIAL COVER SHEET

THIS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR ESSAY OR PROJECT. DEADLINE: 5:30PM, MAY 2, 2005
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 202-994-7753 or Email: bfrank@gwu.edu or Emilio.dorcely@dc.gov

Check one: ☐ Essay or ☐ Project

Title:

Student Names (s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____ Fax _____

School _____ Teacher _____

Class _____

I am a citizen of the District of Columbia.

Signature _____ Date _____

The work I am submitting represents my original research and writing. I have cited other sources where appropriate.

Signature _____ Date _____

PERMISSION TO PUBLISH

Washington, DC Student Voices and DC YAC have permission to publish my essay or project on their websites, in the Student Voices newsletter, and in other publications.

Signature _____ Date _____

(If the student is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must sign.)

Washington, DC Student Voices and DC YAC have permission to publish photographs of my work and of me on their websites, in the Student Voices newsletter, and in other publications.

Signature _____ Date _____

(If the student is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must sign.)

SUMMARY (REQUIRED)

Please attach a brief executive summary of your essay or project (no more than 250 words).

Deadline for Submissions: 5:30PM, May 2, 2005
Washington, D.C. Student Voices
805 21st Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20052

The District of Columbia: Taxation Without Representation or a Constitutional Mandate?
What does the D.C. System of Governance Mean to Me and My Community?
SAMPLE Competition Score Sheet - May 2005

Entry #: _____
 Judge: _____
 Time: _____
 Room: _____
 Title: _____

PAPER

JUDGING CRITERIA	Evaluation			COMMENTS: STRENGTHS AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
	Superior	Excellent	Good	

Research Quality (25%)						
Information is accurate						
Shows analysis and interpretations						
Places topic in historical context						
Shows wide research						
Research is balanced						

Relates Issue to Topic and Personal Experience (25%)						
Clearly relates to topic						
Demonstrates significance of topic in history and draws conclusions						

Clarity of Presentation (15%)						
Paper, written material is original, clear, appropriate, organized, well-presented						
Text is clear, grammatical, and spelled correctly; entry is neatly prepared						

Action Plan (20%)						
Plan is fully explained						
Is reasonable, achievable						
Lists individuals, groups, and organizations to be involved						
Describes desired outcomes of goals						

Action Implementation (10%)						
Was the plan implemented						
Action is well documented						
Impact is described						

Rules Compliance (5%)						
Maintains length requirement (1500-2500 words)						
Includes annotated bibliography						

Overall Rating (circle one)						
Superior		Excellent		Good		

The District of Columbia: Taxation Without Representation or a Constitutional Mandate?
What does the D.C. System of Governance Mean to Me and My Community?
SAMPLE Competition Score Sheet - May 2005

Entry #: _____

Judge: _____

Time: _____

Room: _____

Title: _____

Exhibit Project

JUDGING CRITERIA	Evaluation			COMMENTS: STRENGTHS AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
	Superior	Excellent	Good	

Research Quality (25%)						
Information is accurate						
Shows analysis and interpretations						
Places topic in historical content						
Shows wide research						
Research is balanced						

Relates Issue to Topic and Personal Experience (25%)						
Clearly relates to topic						
Demonstrates significance of topic in history and draws conclusions						

Clarity of Presentation (15%)						
Quality of display						
Paper, written material is original, clear, appropriate, organized, well-presented						
Text is clear, grammatical, and spelled correctly; entry is neatly prepared						

Action Plan (20%)						
Plan is fully explained						
Is reasonable, achievable						
Lists individuals, groups, and organizations to be involved						
Describes desired outcomes of goals						

Action Implementation (10%)						
Was the plan implemented						
Action is well documented						
Impact is described						

Rules Compliance (5%)						
Maintains size requirement (36"x48")						
Includes annotated bibliography						
Media maintains time limit (5min)						
Maintains word limit (500 words)						

Overall Rating (circle one)	
Superior	Excellent
	Good